

Poverty Assessment -- Assessment Methodology

Purpose: To assess poverty in Spokane County. The final product will be a publication that describes the level of poverty and its economic, social and health implications for our community. The measure of poverty we will be using is the cost of basic living necessities (minimum living standard). The publication will be a significant resource for community planning.

Objective 1: Conduct a community-wide data gathering process

Strategy 1: Convene a core planning group comprised of stakeholder leaders to direct and oversee the assessment.

Strategy 2: Establish and convene a representative community advisory group to identify the social and health implications of poverty, the population indicators, and other data that will contribute to an accurate assessment of poverty in Spokane.

Strategy 3: Collect Spokane-specific quantitative data, stories, and existing information that collectively describe poverty in Spokane County.

Strategy 4: Conduct key-informant interviews and/or focus groups with those actively working with individuals and populations that live at or below the minimum living standard.

Strategy 5: Conduct focus groups with individuals from groups who are directly impacted by the consequences of living at or below the minimum living standard.

Objective 2: Detail and assess data that identifies the prevalence of poverty and its implications

Strategy 1: Analyze the data, stories, and information to provide a description of the prevalence and impact of poverty in Spokane.

Strategy 2: Identify the emerging issues related to poverty from Spokane-specific data, information, key-informant interviews, and focus groups.

Strategy 3: Present an outline of the analysis to the core planning group for feedback.

Strategy 4: Draft the written document with continuous feedback from the core planning group.

Strategy 5: Publish the document.

Objective 3: Serve as a resource for community leaders to develop strategies that reduce the prevalence of poverty and address its implications

Strategy 1: Involve stakeholders at all stages of the assessment to facilitate use of the data for strategy development to address poverty.

Strategy 2: Support the Mayor's poverty initiative.

Send feedback, comments or suggestions to [Shanda Diehl](#).